HongKong, China, 1st August, 1842.

It gives me pleasure to be able to communicate with you from these ends of the earth. This has been, thus far, a year of unusual mercy and interest to me, and my missionary operations having received a fresh impulse, I have been enabled to rejoice in God, take courage, and go forward.

In January last, I had the happiness of baptizing Capt. Rogers of Philadelphia, a gentleman of supperior intelligence and piety. Capt. R. had been a Presbyterian for fourteen years, but had never fully examined the subject of baptism until his present visit to China. Without any attempt upon my part to proselyte, he sought my counsel, and advice, and books, with all of which I readily endeavoured to supply him. After three weeks of anxious and prayerful study of the scriptures, and reading, and without once again communicating with me, he came to the full conclusion that the Bible taught that the immersion of the believer into the name of the Trinity was the only Christian Baptism. At his own request, therefore, I had, on the 5th January, the high privilege of burying him with Christ in baptism, in the immense long-boat as she floated, full of water, along-side his fine ship, on one of the calmest and lovliest days I have ever witnessed in Macao Roads. The scene was as interesting as it was novel. Capt. Roger's interests, family, connexions, and prejudices were all Presbyterian, but he nobly made every sacrifice for the sake of the truth, and after his baptism literally went on his way rejoicing. He has recently returned to his native land bearing certificates as a member in full fellowship with the Baptist Denomination.

Soon after the above events the Providential openings around me seemed to call loudly for exertion more decided and more efficient than any I had hitherto been able to put forth. The establishment, by the English, of a civil Government on the Island of HongKong, and the great influx of Chinese to the settlement, and the fact that all missionary operations could be carried on there beyond the influence of Catholics and Mandarins led me to decide, after much prayer, to leave my restricted sphere at Macao, and, with my family, to take up my residence at HongKong, on the 19th March.

Being almost entirely without funds for missionary purposes, and being determined to allow no longer, if possible, my hands to remain tied, I drew up, and had printed, a statement, which I laid before the foreign cummunity in China, soliciting their pecuniary aid towards the erection of Chapels and School-rooms on this Island. Mr. Robert's name was also inserted in the printed statement. Upon application to Sir Henry Pottinger, Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary and Governor of the Island, His Excellency most generously made me a free grant of ground, and subscribed fifty dollars toward the completion of the Queen's Road Chapel. My appeal to the community was met in a most gentlemanly and liberal manner by them, there being subscribed in a very short time, for the objects set forth, upwards of seventeen hundred dollars.

On the 15th May I had the happiness of constituting a regular Baptist Church here, which now numbers 9 members, with good prospects of increase. This number does not include Mr. and Mrs. Dean, and one convert at Macao, nor Mr. Roberts and one convert at Chek Chu, on the other side of the Island. We have visited the baptismal waters once since the formation of the Chuch, and on the 5th of June I yielded to the unanimous call of the church and became their Pastor. The Church admits members from all nations and languages. In the latter part of April we had the happiness of welcoming to our extensive field of labour, Mr. and Mrs. Dean, who were driven from their station at Bangkok by ill health. They brought with them a native Chinese Assistant who has joined me at HongKong. The health of our friends has much improved, and Mr. Dean is now on a visit to spy out the land in the more northern portions of the empire. A free passage in the American Ship Lowell was generously tendered to him by Capt. Peirce and his kind brother, W. P. Peirce, Esq. of Salem, U.S.A.

On the third Lord's day in June, the Bazaar Chapel being completed, it was opened for public Divine Service. It is built entirely of brick and situated in an eligible position in the thickly populated Upper Bazaar. The length is 35 feet, and breadth 16 feet, two stories high, neatly finished and painted throughout. The Chapel room is up stairs, with front venitians, and an open terrace in the rear, and containing the necessary tables, chairs and seats. The lower story is occupied by my Chinese Teacher and Block cutter, both professors of christanity. The doors are opened during the whole of every day, and every applicant readily supplied with books and instruction. There is below an open 5 feet verandah in front, immediately upon the street, and also cook rooms &c. in the rear. We find it a great convenience to have this lower room, which answers a great many valuable purposes, for Teacher, books, paper, printing blocks, types, and now contains about thirty thousand christian tracts and books belonging to the different missionaries in China.

The Queen's Road Chapel having also been completed, was formally dedicated to the worship of the Master on the 19th July, in the presence of a respectable and attentive congregation. I was assisted in the services by Mr. Dean and Dr. Bridgman.—Subject of the Sermon, The Divine Revelation. This Chapel is situated immediately on the Great Queen's Road, fronting, and overlooking the magnificent harbor, and midway between the two great Chinese Bazaars, and well located also for the foreign community. Its walls are built of substantial stucco, and plastered and whitewashed both inside and out. The building is upwards of seventy feet long, and more then twenty-seven feet wide, with a large vestibule, two neat vestry rooms, cupola, London made bell, camphor wood pulpit, rattan bottomed seats, and chairs. It is floored and sealed, and painted throughout, the floor marble colour and the ceiling blue. To make the building as cool as possible, all the windows are made the usual size of doors, and reach to the floor, each having double venitian shutters on the outside painted green, and doubled panel doors painted white, with glass, inside. The large front doors are secured by iron bolts and good English brass knob locks. A printed card which was circulated, stated the Services of the Chapel to be as follows: Every Lord's day at seven o'clock in the morning, Chinese Worship—Eleven o'clock, A.M. English Preaching—Two o'clock, P.M. Chinese Preaching—Half-past six in the evening, English Bible class. Every Thursday half-past six in the evening, English Lecture. Every Friday half-past seven in the evening, Chinese Lecture—other services as occasions require. The Chapel, however, is open every day, a table, with Chinese tracts, and chairs are arranged in the vestibule, which is delightfully cool and pleasant, and the native Assistant, who lives in one of the vestry rooms, is always ready to converse, to preach, to give away tracts, and to refer special cases to me. When the extreme hot season is over, we hope to do much more teaching publicly and from house to house than we are at present possibly able to do. I hold a social conference with the Members of the Church every Tuesday evening.

The above Chapels were the first Prostestant houses of worship that ever have been erected in China, and the Queen's Road Baptist Church, is the first Christian church constituted in this great land of heathenism. For these humble beginnings, proceeded with under much anxiety, to God alone must be all the glory.

The Mission House is in a good state of advancement. It is substantially built of stucco, plastered and white-washed inside and out, with venetians and glass and painted throughout. It contains six good sized rooms, with a wide covered, and tiled veranda hall around, and a kitchen and out-houses attached. The whole will not cost more than about one thousand dollars, and the property will be entirely invested in the Baptist Board. Rents in China are enormously high, and in two or three years generally amount to a larger sum than a substantial and convienent dwelling house can be built for. The Mission House is erected on a portion of the free grant of ground kindly made by H. E. Sir Henry Pottinger. There is still room enough left for another dwelling. It ought to be mentioned that as the Bazaar Chapel is erected upon a bazaar lot, the ground is not a grant from the Government, but is taken at a small annual quit rent as the other lots in the Bazaar are.

Rev. Messrs Bridgman, and Ball, and Mr. Williams, of the Amer. Board, are also erecting a large Dwelling House and Printing Office, a few lots distant from the Baptist Mission House. Mr. Brown, too of the Morrison Education Society has commenced building on a hill which was granted by the Government, and will move his School and family over in the course of two months. The Medical Missionary Society also, has received a hill from the Government, but they have not yet commenced building. The Roman Catholics have a fine building which is nearly completed. Many foreigners are rapidly building warehouses and private dwellings, and a very large number of substantial and neat brick Chinese houses, and stores, and shops have been erected, and large numbers are still in course of erection.

The Government House is a commodious building to which other wings are still to be attached. The "Magistracy House," is a very fine building in a commanding position, with the jails, clerk's offices and guard rooms in the same inclosure. There are large and substantial Barracks at three different positions. A Government Hospital of commodious extent is nearly completed, not far from the Government Warehouses. The Queen's Road is sixty feet wide, and affords a pleasant and convenient public thoroughfare. Granite bridges are thrown over the the different streams, and carraiges have already began to run. The Public Market covers a large space, is well arranged, and is felt to be a very great public convenience. There is a well organised Police corps, both foreign and native, and four distinct Police stations. Robberies in the town however, and piracies in the neighbourhood are by no means unfrequent. The harbour of HongKong, which is the finest in the World, and at all seasons of the year contains a large amount of shipping, is defended by one fort and two heavy batteries. The population of the island at present is probably twenty-five thousand, and consists of all classes of tradesmen and artificers, many of whom occupy long lines of neatly built and well filled shops. Provisions are plentiful and cheap. The number of British troops stationed here is about twelve hundred. The following are the present Public Functionaries of HongKong, viz. A. R. Johnstone, Esq. Governor, Charles E. Stewart, Secretary and Treasurer, Major W. Caine, Chief Magistrate, W. Tennant, Chief Clerk, C. Fearon, Clerk to the Chief Magistrate and Coroner, Leiut. Pedder, Harbor Master and Marine Magistrate, A. Lena, Assistant Harbor Master, G. Reynolds, Lands and Roads Inspector. Lieut. Col. Taylor, commander of the Troops. Medical duty is performed by the Military Surgeons. Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane commands the naval force here, the Blenhiem (74) being his flag ship. At Chek Chu, on the other side of the island, where Mr. Roberts is stationed, there are about four hundred troops in Barracks. We have money in hand for the erection of the Chek Chu Chapel, but the building has not yet been commenced as no suitable lot can, at present, be procured. Chek Chu is a quiet little trading town, containing about eight hundred inhabitants, among whom Mr Roberts finds an encouraging and appropriate field of labour. He has purchased a small house which he has opened for a school room, although very few scholars can be prevailed on to attend. Mrs. Shuck has only a few children who live in the family and who make considerable progress.

Rev. Mr. Milne, of the Lon. Miss. So, proceeded to Chusan in February, where he has been since remaining, but the unsettled state of affairs there, much contracts his missionary exertions. In June, five missionaries from Macao took up their residences at Amoy; viz, Rev. Mr. Abeel, of the Amer. Board, Rev. Mr. Boone and Wife, of the Amer. Episcopal Board, Rev. Mr. McBride and Wife, of the Amer. Presbyterian Board, and Dr. Cummings of Georgia, not connected with any Society. Dr. Lockhart of the Lon. So. will likely soon join Mr. Milne at Chusan. Dr. Hobson of the same Society, is still engaged in Medical practice and christian teaching at Macao. Miss Aldersy, an intelligent English Missionary Lady, who supports herself, has recently arrived at Macao from Java, and is anxious to proceed to some station northward. Rev. Mr. Lowrie, who visited China in the latter part of May, proceeded immediately to Singapore, but with the expectation of returning to China.

We all feel the want of more fellow laborers. Circumstances are such that it seems almost absolutely necessary for me soon to have a colleague on this side of the island, and yet there appears to be but little hope, that the Board will send more Missionaries to China. Should sickness or death call me away, (and nothing is more possible) we should, in all probability, lose, to a great extent, the advantageous position we have now gained through so much toil, anxiety, and expense, merely because there is no one ready to take my place. The state of Mr Robert's lungs and other circumstances, would render it impossible for him to assume the duties of this side of the Island, while Mr. Dean speaks another dialect. There is labour sufficient on this island at the lowest calculation, and in reasonable view of the claims of other stations, for four Baptist Missionary families. These facts I merely state without designing any *appeal* whatever for more Missionaries. If the Churches and the Board still continue to neglect this vast and inviting field, after all that has hitherto been said, and written, and developed, the responsibility rests with them, and my concern is to do *my* duty, and to do it alone, if necessity requires.

Of the conflict now going on between England and China, the two greatest empires in the world, you will naturally expect me to say something; and yet I hardly know what to say to give you a distinct idea of these warlike affairs without wearying you with details. The public papers will have informed you that the first campaign under the Plenipotentiary powers of Capt. Elliot, entirely failed of accomplishing any definite object touching the great question at issue between the two nations. Had Capt. Elliot pushed his demands to extremes, in the first instance, the Emperor would, most likely, have yielded, for the Chinese were literally unprepared for combat, being incredulous as to the coming of a foreign army, until they found it hovering upon their coasts, seizing their vessels, blockading their ports, and capturing their cities. It was a successful stroke of the wily policy of the Imperial Cabinet in being able to entice the British Plenipotentiary away fifteen hundred miles from the vicinity of the capital, and fixing the seat of promised negotiation at Canton, at a season of the year when they knew he could not return with his heavy ships of war until the end of the monsoon, thus allowing them full time to throw Peking into a state of defence. This they have done to an unprecedented extent. Of the failure of the negotiations in this province, and the capture and ransom of Canton city for six millions of dollars, I need not speak. Capt. Elliot having been recalled, Sir Henry Pottinger arrived in China in August, 1841, with full Plenipotentiary powers from the British Government, and immediately proceeded northward. The second campaign began. High hopes were entertained that the war, so calamitous to the Chinese, would soon terminate and peace be established upon a permanent and honourable basis. The bombarding and fall of Amoy, the re-capture of Chusan, the storming and taking of Chinhai, and the military occupation of Ningpo, all followed in quick succession, victory crowning the British arms in every battle. By this time the season became far advanced, and no Commissioners appearing on the part of the Emperor, H. E. Sir Henry Pottinger returned to HongKong, for the purpose of putting in order the affairs of the settlement, where he arrived on the 1st February, 1842.

Galled by the consideration that fortune awarded victory to the English in every engagement in the open field, the Chinese commenced a system of harassing warfare upon their enemy, by kidnapping and secret assassination. In this way a number of the English were either killed or taken alive, under the very walls of Ningpo, In December, the British troops marched out of Ningpo, and defeated large bodies of the Chinese army. They again rallied in March, and made a vigorous attack upon Ningpo and Chinhai, but were repulsed and pursued with dreadful slaughter. In the beginning of May, Ningpo was evacuated by the British General with the main body of his army, and on the 18th of the same month the third campaign commenced by the storming and capturing of the city of Chapoo. The latest dates left the English army in the valley of the great Yang tsze Keang, and flushed with fresh victories were in full march upon the populous and wealthy cities of Nanking and Hang chow foo. Within the space of a very few days they had captured three hundred and seventy-six large cannon, many of them having been newly cast of brass, after foreign models, and mounted upon carriages with revolving centres. In the manufacture of fire arms, building of vessels, and the construction of forts, such has recently been the vast improvements of the Chinese, that rumours have been rife that there must be foreign engineers among them. Such rumours, however, have but little foundation in truth. The guns of the wrecked Transport Kite, the fact that the Hong Merchants possess a small locomotive, the continual presence of foreign shipping in the Canton river, and the utter inefficiency of all their fortfications hitherto erected, would, in themselves, be quite sufficient to suggest important improvements to such a people as the Chinese. In and near Canton city powerful forts have been erected upon new principles, a steamer and new fashioned war vessels have been built, and establishments for the manufacture of fire arms after foreign models have been put into operation.

For the prosecution of this the third campaign of the war, the English have now on the Chinese confines an immense naval and land force, the naval being the largest ever before assembled in Asia by any power in the world. There are about sixty well equipped ships of war, with fifteen war steamers besides nearly one hundred armed Transport ships. As to the land force, there is a formidable army of about fourteen thousand fighting men, with Sappers and Miners, Royal and Madras artillery, and a troop of Horse. The Commander-in-chief of all the land forces is Lieut. General Sir Hugh Gough; Major General Lord Saltoun is second in command. The naval Commander-in-chief is vice Admiral Sir William Parker, Flag Ship, Cornwallis, 74, second in command, Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane, Flag Ship. Blenhiem, 74. The entire expense of the whole British Expedition now in China is upwards of *five hundred thousand dollars* per month.

The above force if properly directed, would likely be quite sufficient to seize upon the Chinese empire, and yet every unprejudiced mind, which has studied the subject must decide that it is not, judging from the past, the object of the British Government to subvert the Government of China. Had this been their object, the whole army in the first campaign would have marched directly upon Peking. Wherever the English force has gone the power of the Mandarins has been broken, and the capture of Peking will be the last alternative, for when this takes place the power of the Emperor must certainly crumble to the dust, and the rule of the great Tartar Dynasty will be no more, while the English will have upon their hands the mighty task of quieting a population of three hundred and fifty millions, thickly spread over a vast extant of territory, and in a state of anarchy, consternation, and civil war. As to when the present hostile struggle is likely to terminate, it is exceedingly difficult to form any thing like an opinion of even probable correctness. Many lookers on argue that a final settlement is far distant, whilst others confidently predict an honourable conclusion of the whole within two months from the present date. My own opinion is that the end is not yet. The present demands of the British Government are something like the following: twenty millions of dollars as an indemnity, the expenses of the war, the cession of one or more positions on the coast, free trade and honourable intercourse with the Empire, and a Resident at Peking. It remains to be seen whether the Emperor does not choose rather to lose his throne than yield even his nominal assent to these demands.

I have already taxed your patience too long to enter upon the moral merits or demerits of the origin of the war. On this subject vast ignorance still prevails both in England and America. It is *not* an "Opium War," and Mr. Adams is right in stating that its origin must be traced to circumstances long prior to the seizure of the Opium. This seizure of the Opium and the imprisonment of the Queen's Officer only afforded, in the eyes of the British Government, a good pretext for commencing those hostile operations aganist China which they had long contemplated. I refer you with much pleasure to an able Lecture on the "War in China," delivered in December last, before the Massachusett's Historical Society, by the Hon. John Quincy Adams. Upon some points Mr. Adams is in error, but being fully aware of the vast amount of ignorance which exists among all classes in the United States and Great Britian on every subject connected with this country, and having made China and the Chinese my sole study for nearly seven years past, I have been astonished, in perusing the Lecture, at the accuracy of the Lecturer's information and the justness of most of his views.

As a Christian Philanthropist, I watch the various stirring scenes and events around me with intense interest, and verily believe that God in the economy and wisdom of His Providence, designs over-ruling all these present evils of war, and suffering, and bloodshed, for the opening of enlarged doors for the promulgation of the glorious gospel in these extensive dominions. Indeed most interesting openings have already been made in positions hitherto absolutely sealed, and are now in possession of Protestant Missionaries. The progress of events are developing other openings and facilities: are the churches prepared and willing to occupy till the Master comes? Let us look beyond the causes of the present dreadful and warlike position of affairs in China, and regard the results and consequences as they bear upon the advancement of the Kingdom and will of heaven and let us make unceasing prayer unto God, that the gross darkness and moral death which have for so many ages enveloped this great land, may be dispelled by the glorious rising of the Sun of Righteousness, and China become enlightened and Christianized, and sanctified, and saved.

Believe me, in the Lord Jesus,

Faithfully Yours

J. Lewis Shuck.

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